

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 20th March, 2007**

There were no members of the public present.

PRESENT Mr. E. Clark (in the Chair)
 Mrs. S. Sawyer
 Mr. R. House
 Mr. M. Duff
 Mr. J. Willis
 Mrs. K. Hayes
 Mr. B. Cullern
 Mr. V. Bielecki

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P. C. Lee Penning

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dr. C. Beckett, Mr. K. Jackson, Mr. D. Tucker and Cllr. S. Content

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Planning application 07/00811/FUL: Mr. R. House – Prejudicial.

Agenda Item 7 – Hilperton Village Hall:-

Mr. M. Duff – Personal as the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee

Mrs. S. Sawyer – Personal as a Member of the Village Hall Committee

Mr. E. Clark – Personal as the Parish Council’s Representative on the Village Hall Committee

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th February, 2007, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 7 – Notice Board for Church Street: The Clerk had received a letter from Andy Cadwallader at WCC to say that the Church Street location selected would not cause any problem to the public highway and WCC would not object to its installation. He had also spoken to the District Council and had been told that the Parish Council would not need planning permission for the sign. They would, however, need to know the size of the notice board in case advertising consent was required, although this would be very unlikely. It was agreed that the Clerk should now go ahead and order the notice board and posts.

Minute 7 – Post Office Network Consultation: The Clerk and the Chairman had completed the consultation response form on behalf of the Parish Council and this had been sent back to the DTI. An acknowledgement had been received from both the DTI and Postwatch.

Minute 7 – Parish Newsletter: This had now been photocopied and copies would shortly be distributed throughout the parish by the Scouts.

Minute 7 – Local Works, Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill: The Clerk had received a letter from Dr. Andrew Murrison MP to say that he fully supported the efforts of his conservative colleague, Nick Hurd, to introduce the Sustainable Communities Bill. He had also, as requested, written to Ruth Kelly and Phil Woolas and would be in touch when he had had a response.

Minute 7 – Proposal to Re-organise the Registration Service in Wiltshire: The Parish Council’s response to the proposal had been acknowledged.

Minute 7 – Dog Control Consultation: A letter of support had been sent to WWDC and this had been acknowledged.

Minute 7 – Consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members: Comments from the Parish Council had been sent to the appropriate government department.

Minute 12a – The gentleman in question had been thanked.

Minute 12b – After an approach from the Clerk, WCC had inspected the location and written to the address concerned requesting that cutting works be carried out to ensure safe passage for pedestrians. Further action would be taken by them if their request was not complied with.

Minute 12d – The Clerk had been informed by WWDC that the swings had been taken down because a routine check found a fault on one of the cables. A new set had been ordered and the District Council also proposed to lay a new surface at the same time as replacing the swings.

Minute 12f – The Clerk had contacted British Waterways and had received a reply to say that the boats on the canal were regularly monitored and particular attention was paid to areas which were becoming more popular with boaters, such as Whaddon Lane. It was confirmed that people living on boats were required to move every fourteen days except in exceptional circumstances, but British Waterways could not do anything regarding car parking, other than to say that when boats moved then presumably the cars would go also; but as new boats arrived so would new cars. If this was causing any danger it was suggested that the local highway authority should be approached.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a) The Chairman informed members that the Parish Council website had had 408 pages downloaded and 176 visitors since the last meeting.
- b) The Chairman referred to additional items on the agenda, copies of which were tabled.
- c) He was pleased to report that Victoria Road was again open.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND POLICE

County Report

Cllr. Content had given her apologies and had sent a report, copies of which were tabled.

- a) She was still trying to get hold of the plans for the PMCC to see what the original agreement was. It appeared that the plans were currently ‘missing’ but WWDC had that in hand at the moment.
- b) There were rumours that Ruth Kelly would announce all ten county unitary bids to be progressed to the consultation stage. This would be a blow to residents as it appeared that there was no public referendum or consultation in this process and, if that was the case, Cllr. Content would be mounting strong pressure on WCC to hold a public referendum. Reports to date showed that a unitary authority for Wiltshire was not what the public wanted.
- c) The Staverton railway bridge closure work appeared to be on course for completion after five weeks.
- d) An LEA Governor was required for Staverton Primary School and Cllr. Content wondered if the Parish Council knew of anyone who might be interested. The Chairman said that Hilperton Primary school was also in need of a governor.
- e) P. C. Lee Pelling would be heading up the NPT in the area as from April.
- f) The AGM of PMCC would be on the 1st May.

District Report

Mr. Clark said that the District Council last month set the Council Tax at 3.9%.

He reported that the Section 106 agreement for the local centre at Paxcroft had been deferred for six months as it was felt that the developers had not come up with enough proof that they were actively advertising the site for a medical centre.

Police

PC Lee Pelling, the NPT Beat Manager for Staverton and Hilperton, was in attendance and tabled copies of general police news. He said that the planned 'Go Live' launch date for neighbourhood policing was on the 23rd April and, in order to prepare for this, he would be undertaking public consultation in various ways to find out what local residents, businesses and organisations felt were the key issues and problems in the community.

PC Pelling said that Staverton and Hilperton would have for the first time a dedicated Community Support Officer, and PCSO Karen Beedon would be joining him for the launch.

There followed a short period when members of the Parish Council reported various matters of concern to PC Pelling.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Bus Stop Clearway, Hill Street

The Chairman confirmed that WCC had identified the site for a clearway near Greenhill Gardens in the layby where the bus stop was located. A letter of protest had already been received from a resident in Hill Street who, although appreciating the fact that this was a bus stop area, was concerned as to where alternative parking could be provided for the residents' cars which at present used the bay.

A general discussion followed, at the end of which it was agreed that an objection should be made to the proposal to site the clearway in the layby because of the needs of parishioners. The Parish Council's preferred site for a clearway on this side of the road would be further up from the layby, in the main carriageway of the road, in front of No. 274 Hill Street, and the bus stop sign should also be relocated to this site.

Hazard at Newleaze

Following the Clerk's letter to the West Wilts. Housing Society (accompanied by photographs of the hazard), she had received a reply from the area housing officer to say that the photographs had been sent to their grounds maintenance officer who would arrange to get the hazard removed. It was agreed that this should be brought up again at the May PC meeting to see if the necessary works had been completed.

Parish Steward

Visit on the 13th and 14th March - The Parish Steward had been asked to:-

- a) Clear all blocked drains throughout the village, in particular the one opposite The Knap by the Blind House, which was full to overflowing, and the drain outside the bus stop at the top end of Hill Street.
- b) Clear pavements and kerbs throughout the village, starting at The Knap and working down Church Street into Hill Street.
- c) Clean out the bus shelter at the lower end of Hill Street and check on other bus shelters, cleaning them out as well, if necessary.
- d) Grub out the debris underneath hedges along the stretch of pavement in Horse Road from St. Mary's Church (on the opposite site of the road) along to Wyke Road.

It appeared that these jobs had been done, although confirmation had not yet been received from WCC.

Mr. Willis had received a Parish Steward programme for the next few months. The next visit would be on **Friday, 13th April**, May would be a time for weed treatment and the June visit would be on **Tuesday and Wednesday, 19th and 20th**.

Local Elections – 3rd May

The Clerk had received election packs from WWDC and she gave out copies to members, saying that she would post the others to those people who were unable to attend the meeting. She also said that she would let each parish councillor know his/her electoral register number.

Nomination papers could be submitted to the Returning Officer at WWDC from Tuesday, 27th March, Monday to Friday during normal office hours, and the deadline date for receipt was **NOON on Wednesday, 4th April.**

Best Kept Village Competition

The Clerk said that the closing date for the competition was Sunday, 1st April, and it was agreed that she should send in the entry form and map of the area to be judged.

The Mead Community Primary School

The Clerk had contacted WWDC to see if they owned the land in question near the school and had ascertained from their legal services department that a Land Registry search had revealed that most of the land involved was in their ownership. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the April meeting, when a letter and map would be received from the council.

West Wilts. Central Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Jackson was not in attendance and the Clerk reminded members that the next meeting of the group would be on the 26th April.

Hilperton Parish Council – Consideration of Annual Grant

The Clerk had received a letter from the Treasurer of the Village Hall requesting funding to help with the maintenance of the playing field. After a short discussion it was agreed that a Section 19 Grant of £1,396.77 should be made to the Village Hall, made up as follows:-

Grounds maintenance	£1,982.81
Public Liability Insurance (25%)	<u>£413.96</u>
	£2,396.77
Less football income	<u>£1,000.00</u>
	<u>£1,396.77</u>

Double Yellow Lines in Hilperton

a) Establishing

After a short discussion it was agreed that the highway authority should be asked to establish new double yellow lines at the following points:-

* From the give-way point in Hackett Place on both sides of the road leading to The Mead school. A letter should also be sent to the Chief Fire Officer at Trowbridge fire station asking for his comments on this proposal and the concern of the Parish Council that, in the event of a fire engine being needed at the school, it would be unable to get anywhere near at times when pupils arrived at the school in the morning and on their departure in the afternoon.

* From Dymott Square on both sides of Hill Street extending some 20 metres to link up with the existing double yellow lines which continue around the bend into Church Street.

b) Re-painting

It was agreed that the highway authority should be asked to re-paint all the yellow lines throughout the village

Conservation Areas – Report by Mr. Jackson

In the absence of Mr. Jackson, it was agreed that this should be deferred until the April PC meeting.

Traffic using Middle Lane

The Chairman reported an increase in the volume of traffic along this stretch of un-metalled road, probably caused by the temporary closure of parts of Victoria Road. It was agreed that the situation should be reviewed in April

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

07/00511/TPO: George Wimpey, Bristol, land adjoining 5 and 7 Foxglove Drive
Pruning of Oak tree

It was agreed that the Parish Council should defer to the decision made by the Tree and Landscape Officer.

Mr. House left the room during discussion of the following application

07/00811/FUL: Doric Developments (Bath) Ltd., land west of St. Helier, Hilperton Road
Erection of detached house and garage

After a short discussion, it was agreed that an objection should be made to this application on the following grounds:-

- a) It would neither improve nor enhance the adjacent conservation area.
- b) It was contrary to WWDC policy H1D as it would result in the loss of an open area important for amenity reasons.
- c) Policy H1 stated that priority would be given to proposals for the re-use of previously developed land. This was not the case for this application, in fact the application paperwork stated that this land was currently used as paddock.

Mr. House returned to the meeting.

Decisions

07/00024/FUL: Mr. H. Demski, 158 Wyke Road
First floor extension – permission with conditions

07/00042/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Coles, 4 Nursery Close
Single storey extension – permission with conditions

07/00212/TCA: Mr. G. Richards, Ashton Lodge, 125c Ashton Road
Felling of Eucalyptus tree – a TPO made

07/00327/TPO: Mr. and Mrs. Read, 75 Foxglove Drive
Deadwood/crown thinning of Lime tree – consent

06/02211/FUL: Training Express Ltd., J. C. Gardens Nursery, Marsh Road
Change of use to non-residential training centre - refusal

06/02212/ADV: Training Express Ltd., J. C. Gardens Nursery, Marsh Road
Shop sign type fixed to fence – consent

06/03611/FUL: Mr. T. V. Davies, 9 Ashton Rise
Conversion of garage to study/annexe, extension to garage link and erection of garage
Permission with conditions

Proposed Telecom Mast Installation – Update

The Chairman said that WWDC had written to T-Mobile's agents to say that the proposed site was not suitable and they would advise them to look elsewhere. However, because the mast would be under 15 metres in height, they could in fact put it up anyway. A petition with 400 signatures seemed to be helping the situation and T-Mobile were looking at the following alternative sites:-

- a) The reservoir at Devizes Road
- b) The Fieldways end of Hilpertown Drive

Someone had also suggested a site along the old A350 at Semington.

WWDC – Consultation in respect of Planning Decision-making

A letter had been received from WWDC regarding the above, with two proposals on which the District Council wished for feedback. Where objections were raised by a Town or Parish Council to a planning proposal which the Development Control Manager was minded to approve, they could have the matter referred to the Planning Committee. Any representation in this respect must be made within 28 days of the date of the consultation notification being sent to the Parish or Town Council (this was previously 21 days) or within 14 days of similar notification in respect of the submission of amended plans. A further aspect of the process was that in making such representations Parish and Town Councils would be requested to give a planning reason for objection to the planning application.

View of the Parish Council were therefore sought on the following:-

- a) the appropriateness of a 28 day and 14 day period in relation to the referral of a planning application to the Planning Committee; and
- b) should Parish and Town Councils be 'requested' to provide planning reasons for such a reference.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should support the appropriateness of a 28 day referral period in respect of new applications, although it would prefer more than a 14 day referral period in respect of amended plans. Parish and Town Councils should definitely be requested to provide planning reasons for any reference.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter from WWDC regarding Housing and Council Tax take-up. This was accompanied by a poster which the Clerk had put on the Village Hall notice board.
- b) WALC County Newsletter for March, 2007 (copies tabled)
- c) WCC – Report on progress regarding the strengthening of Staverton railway bridge
- d) SPLASH – Letter of thanks for their grant.

10. PUBLICATIONS

- a) WWDC – Improvement and Development Agency Peer Review – final report
- b) Local Council Review – March, 2007
- c) Clerks and Councils Direct – March, 2007
- d) The Clerk – March, 2007
- e) WCC's Wiltshire News – March, 2007

11. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:-

- a) Since the last meeting:

1 st Hilpertown Scout Group – Delivery of Newsletter	£50.00
(Chairman's Allowance)	

b) This meeting		
Clerk's Salary for March	£367.50)	
Clerk's Expenses	£135.70)	£503.20
File-It: Stationery/Office supplies (including £11.07 VAT)		£74.33
Rocks East Woodland – Newsletter photocopying		£185.00
Local Council Review – Annual Subscription		£27.00
Chairman's Allowance:		
Telephone/Postage	£12.00	
Mileage	£29.20	
Miscellaneous	£69.33	£110.53
<i>The Chairman abstained when approval was given to the above expenditure</i>		
Hilpertown Village Hall (Section 19 grant approved earlier)		£1,396.77

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- Mrs. Sawyer reported a broken dog bin on the cycle path opposite Fieldways.
- Mrs. Hayes requested weight limit signs to be put up at both ends of Horse Road.
- Mr. Cullern said he appreciated the graffiti signs which WWDC had put up near the school, although he felt they were a little small. He also reported that one of the cycle safety barriers along the path to the football pitch had been taken out and thrown into the field.
- Mr. House was happy to report that someone had come forward who was willing to take on the allotment at The Mead school.
- The Clerk reported some progress regarding outstanding remedial work to various roads on Paxcroft Mead, with WCC writing to and receiving positive responses from the developers concerned.

13. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- Local election information.
- Introduction of PC Lee Pelling
- Best Kept Village competition
- Grant for the Village Hall
- The PC's objection to the siting of one of the proposed Hill Street bus stop clearways
- Requests for more double yellow lines and repainting of existing yellow lines

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 17th April 2007

Annual Parish Assembly – Tuesday, 1st May

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Date

